

THE SOCIAL WORLD.

The Custom Permitting Maidens to Propose an Ancient One—Where It Was Born.

PLEASANT LOCAL EVENTS

The Pioneer Club Gives a Pleasant Dance, Which is Numerously Attended—Straw Rides and Pleasant Socials.

With the advent of the new year departs the privilege of the maiden to make a choice and request that "choicer" to buy her gowns and pay for her chewing gum, not a small item, sometimes. The ladies, now, who have neglected the opportunities afforded them these 365 days, what shall be said of them? Perhaps something better than of the girl who did take advantage of leap year to propose. An interesting item printed not long since shows the superstition or custom to be old, centuries old. It is this: "A law enacted in 1283 by the parliament of Scotland, is as follows: It is statuted and ordaind that during the reigne of maist blisful magistrie, ilk fourth year, ilk maiden lady of baith high and low estate shall have liberty to bespeak ye man she likes; albeit, gif he refuses to tak hir to be his wyfe, he shall be mulcted in ye summe of ane undris or less as his estate moit be, except and anvis gif he can mak it appear that he is betrothit to aine ither woman that he shall then be free."

Another law of Scotland fixes the penalty of refusal at the price of a silk dress or its equivalent in coin, provided the gentleman can not bring proof that he is "betrothit to aine ither woman."

It is not recorded if any maiden lady took advantage of her privileges. It may safely be said that no maiden of our day puts herself in the way of refusal. But, ladies, however the case may stand, your chance to propose is four years ahead, now.

KING'S DAUGHTERS.

About forty of the friends of the "King's Daughters" gathered, on the last day of the old year, at the residence of Mrs. S. J. Jones to watch for and welcome the new year. Delicate refreshments were served and the evening was most enjoyable to all. The "King's Daughters," although numbering few as yet, are increasing, and the good they may do is incalculable.

ULM HORNMAN.

On Tuesday, January 1st, an elegant wedding occurred at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Lockey, on Eighth avenue and Raleigh street. A large number of friends assembled to witness the marriage of Mr. A. L. Um, of the Sun River country, and Miss Etta Bowman, a daughter of Mr. Lockey. The groom is a prosperous ranch owner and both have hosts of friends who found pleasure in testifying their good-will by rich and costly wedding gifts. The ceremony was performed by Rev. C. B. Allen, Jr., after which a dainty wedding supper was served. The young couple enter at once a home of their own where the good wishes of their friends for happiness and prosperity did fair to be fulfilled.

HICKSON-REYNOLDS.

The marriage of Fred Hickson, of Elk-horn, and Miss Hattie I. Reynolds, of this city, occurred on Thursday, Jan. 3, at the residence of the bride's mother, on Park avenue, Rev. A. D. Raleigh officiating. Only a few friends were present, but the good wishes of many will accompany the young couple to their future home in Elk-horn.

PIONEER CLUB DANCE.

The Pioneer club gave their second dance on Friday night at Assembly hall. An unusually large attendance enjoyed the dancing and the ball proved fully as pleasing as the dances which have made the club famous for its hospitality throughout the territory. Rosner's orchestra furnished music. There were present: Mr. and Mrs. James P. Porter, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. McConnell, Mr. and Mrs. George Prentiss, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Morris Sands, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Gans, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Webb, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Duor of Fort Benton, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Kleinschmidt, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lehman, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Zimmerman, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Brunell, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Switzer, Mr. and Mrs. James Barker, Misses Child, Davenport, Rumley, Sligh, Green, Briscoe, Smith, King, Brook, Speir Crounse and Kleinschmidt, Messrs. George Child, Ben Kutz, Judge Bach, T. B. Kirkland, Harry Child, Charles McCrory, J. St. Keville, James U. Sanders, Horace B. Kane, Ben Loeb, A. M. Thornburg, A. Krigbaum, Don Davenport, J. D. Carnochan, J. McCarthy, Walter King, H. J. Cassidy, W. Tumney, J. K. Gunn, J. Genzberger and others.

NEW ENGLANDERS MEET.

The Yankess of Helena met Friday evening to discuss the merits of the sons of New England who have rendered valuable service to the country. The subject was so interesting, and so much was found to say, that the question is to be further considered at the next meeting, January 18. The names of Daniel Webster, William Lloyd Garrison, Benjamin Franklin and Dr. Jackson, the discoverer of the uses of ether, were introduced, and were probably the others brought up for discussion. Miss Jennie Tonn gave a recitation, "The Organ Builder."

TOOK A STRAW RIDE.

The young people of Helena have been very gay for a few days, and, besides the toboggan rides, have had two or more straw rides. Thursday and Friday evenings a merry party, protected from the cold by heavy fur robes and plenty of straw in which to burrow with their feet, drove about the streets, announcing their approach by blowing tin horns. The party was composed of the following: Misses Mamie O'Brien, Josephine and Annie Herman, Luella Haskell, Azie Mills, Lillie McLeod and Alice Langhorne, Harvey English, Thos. Rindt, Morris and Leon Boyer, Milton Ganser, Horace Beckwith, Arthur Pitts and Howard O'Brien.

DINNER GOWNS.

This season's dinner gowns are very elaborate. One of the latest is of soft, thick silk of a beige-blue shade upon which, in delicate relief, are brocaded figures in two or three shades of pale gold. Long, narrow, open sleeves cover small, close sleeves of cream-colored crepe de chine. There is a long train. The gown front has long, flowing draperies of cream crepe with a deep border running across the hem embroidered in art stitches in many shades of brown and green.

Another unique dinner gown is of rose crepe de chine combined with moss green plush embroidered with topaz stones.

PERSONAL.

S. A. Balliet is back from his New Year's visit to Butte.

Mrs. L. T. Evans, of Bozeman, is visiting in the city.

Hon. C. P. Blackley, of Bozeman, was in the city yesterday on business.

Mrs. E. C. Babcock is entertaining Mrs. Schultz, wife of Dr. William Schultz, of Butte.

Miss Kate Winston, of Marysville, is the guest of Miss Ella Cooney, at 506 Brock-bridge street.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Humbert are in the city, at the residence of Hon. Joseph Davis, on Ewing street.

Miss Maude Caven has returned from Jefferson City where she visited during the holidays with relatives.

Miss Mary V. Parkinson, of Boulder, of Boulder, will resume in a day or so her studies at the Helena Business College.

Mr. S. Jones has almost entirely recovered from her fall on Broadway, which at first threatened to cause serious inconvenience.

Miss Mary B. Hill resumed her duties at the College of Montana, Deer Lodge, after spending the holidays very pleasantly in this city.

The family of L. H. Hershfield expect soon to leave for the East. They will probably occupy their home in New York during the winter.

Mrs. Chadwick entertained, during the holidays, her sister, Miss Fannie Ewing, formerly a teacher in our city schools, now engaged in the public school at Great Falls.

Miss Clara Roberts, who has been identified with the Butte Miner for a long time, left Butte Thursday to join her parents in Seattle, W. T. Miss Roberts was a favorite among Helena people as well as the society people of Butte.

FATE OF A COLLEGE GRADUATE.

An Experiment in Railroading in Dakota that Wasn't a Howling Success.

New York Tribune: Why don't college men do well out in Dakota? Because the country's too big for 'em; they can't fill up the room out there. I'll tell you one reason the natives don't take to 'em. We built a railroad out there, me and Bill Searcy—we're a progressive crowd out in Dakota—one of the finest roads you ever saw. It was only 100 miles long, and 100 miles ain't much in Dakota, but it was a railroad from top to bottom. We'd made a pile of money, me and Bill, and we about owned Zero valley, and when the country began to get settled we said we'd give 'em a railroad, and we did. That railroad cost a heap of money, but it was worth it. We didn't stop at nothing to make it first-class. "The Zero Valley and Leeborough Railroad," we called it. Cars, all inlaid and veneered, yellow plush cushions on the seats, and everything tip-top. I wanted to have silver mountings on all the seats, but Bill wouldn't have that. He's a thinker, Bill, and he thought that when train robbers stopped the train they'd tear the cars to pieces, so we let it go at nickel.

Well, I wanted a regular eastern road, with brakemen to call out the stations. They don't generally do that in the west, you know. I sent east for brakemen, and I ordered college graduates, for I was going to have everything the best. I had 'em sent out there all trained up ready for the first trip. They was as fine a looking set of boys as you'd want to see. When I got 'em into their blue uniforms, with their gold buttons and silver badges, they did encourage me. I was pleased now, I tell you, and I said to Bill the morning we was going to pull out on the first trip: "Bill, this a great country; we beat the world on everything we tackle."

Bill wasn't so cheerful. He ain't a feather-brained man, you know, and he didn't often let his feelings run away with him. I never knew him to warm over anything but injuns. He did used to get a little worked up over them critters in the early days. Well, he hoped every thing would turn out all right, but he wasn't going to yell before he got out of the woods.

"We had a crowd on the first trip. Everybody was there. Everything worked well when we started. But the thing I wanted most was to hear the brakeman call out the station. That was what I was waiting for. I had white posts put up just where I wanted him to open the door and shout out the station. I began to get nervous when we got near Bee-riss. "Bee-riss," some people call it. I don't object to that if people like it, but we always pronounce it Bee-at-riss out there, to rhyme with mattress, you know. Bee-at-riss. We named it after Sheriff Bowler's little girl. As I said, I began to get nervous when we got near Bee-at-riss. I was afraid he'd forget about the white post, and I didn't want to have the whole thing spoiled.

But he remembered it, and my heart just jumped when he drew the door open suddenly. Then that infernal college dude screamed out "Bay-a-tree-chay! Bay-a-tree-chay! This station is Bay-a-tree-chay."

I went into the telegraph office and telegraphed down to Friedzdale for the lynching party. And that's why you see so many college men's graves out in Dakota, young man.

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THE MARKETS.

STOCKS.

New York, Jan. 5.—Bar silver, 92 1/2.

Copper—Stagnant; lake and January, \$17 30.

Lead—Easier; inactive.

The stock market was not so dull today as it has been on some previous Saturdays, but it was devoid of feature, and the result of the day's transactions is to leave almost everything but slightly changed. The advances are in a small majority, but are confined to fractions. Govern-ments dull and heavy.

Petroleum opened steady at 80 1/2 and after a slight decline in early trading rallied and closed strong at 80 1/2. Total sales, \$4,300 barrels.

Government bonds, 4s, 106 1/4; 4 1/2s, 108 1/4; Northern Pacific, 20s; preferred, 99 1/4; Oregon Improvement, 12; Oregon Navigation, 92; Trans-continental, 30 1/2; Union Pacific, 64 1/2.

Money on call easy 2 1/4; last loan at 3. Prime mercantile paper, 5 1/2 to 6. Sterling exchange dull but steady at \$1 3/4 for sixty-day bills, and \$4 5/8 for demand.

LIVE STOCK.

Chicago, Jan. 5.—Cattle—Receipts, 3,000; steady; choice beefers, \$4.50 to 4.75; steers, \$3.50 to 4.00; stockers and feeders, \$1.90 to 2.30; Texas cattle, \$2.00 to 2.50.

Hogs—Receipts, 11,000; strong to higher; mixed, \$5.00 to 5.25; heavy, \$5.00 to 5.30; light, \$5.00 to 5.25.

Sheep—Receipts, 1,700; steady; natives, \$3.00 to 4.75; western corn fed, \$4.25 to 4.70; Texans, \$2.50 to 3.50.

CHICAGO PRODUCE.

Chicago, Jan. 5.—Wheat—Weak; cash 95 1/2; February, \$1.00 1/2; May, \$1.01 1/2.

Corn—Steady; cash, 55 1/2 to 56; February, 54 1/2; May, 55 1/2 to 56.

Flour—Steady; cash, 54 1/2; February, 55 1/2; May, 56 1/2 to 57.

Lard—Firm; cash, \$7.40; February, \$7.47 1/2; May, \$7.60 1/2.

Butter—Firm; cash, \$12.15; February, \$12.05; May, \$12.15.

Eggs—Firm; cash, \$7.40; February, \$7.47 1/2; May, \$7.60 1/2.

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